

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01
TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 NEA-10 /146 W
-----109447 211949Z /43

O 211933Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6242
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMTN

USEEC

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJECT: EVOLUTION OF SAFEGUARD DISCUSSIONS

1. AS ANTICIPATED IN REFTELS, PRESSURES HAVE BEEN BUILDING
UP WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS FROM OTHER NEGOTIATING PARTIES TO
BRING GREATER BALANCE AND DISCIPLINE INTO THE EC'S POSITION
ON SELECTIVE SAFEGUARDS:

A. CANADA THROUGH AMBASSADOR GREY HAS BEEN EXPRESSING
ALARM OVER AN UNDISCIPLINED SELECTIVITY PROCESS WHICH
WOULD LEAVE THEM EXCESSIVELY VULNERABLE TO ARBITRARY
AMERICAN ACTION. HE MADE THESE POINTS EXTENSIVELY IN
PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER
SPONSORED BY THE SWISS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN
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DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

B. THE JAPANESE ARE ALSO GATHERING SPEED WITH THEIR
RESISTANCE, OFFERING SOME DRAFTING SUGGESTIONS BUT
SHOWING CLEARLY WITH THEIR RETICENCE TO EVEN DISCUSS
SELECTIVITY A GREAT CONCERN FOR HOW THIS CAN BE HANDLED.

C. THE BRAZILIANS, INDIANS, AND OTHERS HAVE ALSO BEGUN A MOVEMENT TO CONSOLIDATE THE LDCS INTO A POSTURE THAT WOULD ENSURE THAT ANY SELECTIVITY COULD ONLY BE EXERCISED WITHIN A DISCIPLINED FRAMEWORK.

D. THESE PRESSURES WERE ALSO EVIDENT IN CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MCDONALD AND DENMAN ON SUNDAY NIGHT AND MONDAY DURING OUR BI-LATERAL DISCUSSION WHEN HE REPEATEDLY USED SAFEGUARDS AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF EC'S PRIME CONCERN IN MOVING THE NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD. AT A LOWER LEVEL ABBOTT HAS ALSO BEEN INDICATING IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA THAT THE PRICE THE COMMUNITY MAY HAVE TO PAY FOR SELECTIVITY WILL PROBABLY BE HIGH.

2. MTN DEL IS THEREFORE CONTINUING THE TACTICS OUTLINED IN REFTELS IN WHICH U.S. WILL TAKE A RELATIVELY LOW KEY POSTURE UNTIL WE CAN SEE HOW THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION AND OTHERS BEGIN TO EVOLVE. IT IS OUR PLAN TO MOVE IN WHEN THIS APPEARS TIMELY TO ARBITRATE FOR AN APPROPRIATELY BALANCED SOLUTION BETWEEN THE TWO EXTREME VIEWS.

3. NOTE: REFTELS CITED ABOVE ARE GENEVA 12527, AND GENEVA 900. MCDONALD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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